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CHINESE DIRECTIVE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKERS' AND PEASANTS' SCHOOLS

On 14 December 1950, the Government Administration Council, Central People's Government, issued a directive establishing the workers' and peasants' accelerated-course middle schools and worker-peasant cadres' supplementary cultural schools to educate the youth, age 18 to 35, who are to assume the responsibility of national reconstruction.

The accelerated-course schools, equivalent to regular cultural schools, equivalent to regular primary schools, shall have a term of 2 years. If necessary the terms may be extended. For the time being, the former school will be operated by the Ministry of Education and by the education departments of the major administrative regions. The latter school will be operated by high-level governmental agencies and the people's government at provincial, municipal, and hsen levels.

The directive reads as follows:

1. Worker-peasant cadres are the backbone in the establishment of the people's state, but, because of long periods of war in the past, few have had a chance to receive a systematic cultural education. To raise the cultural level of workers and peasants so they will become the intellectual workers of this new era and assume the responsibility of national reconstruction, the people's government must educate them adequately. Therefore, the government has decided to establish a number of workers' and peasants' accelerated-course middle schools and worker-peasant cadres' supplementary cultural schools. These schools shall enroll and educate workers and peasants of all educational levels. The government shall do its utmost to raise the educational level of workers and peasants throughout the nation to the equivalent of the middle-school level within a few years.

2. The term of the workers' and peasants' accelerated-course middle school shall be 3 years, which may be extended if necessary. The curriculum is to be similar to that in the regular middle schools. The term of the worker-peasant cadres' supplementary cultural school shall be 2 years, and it may also

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be extended. Its curriculum is to be similar to that in the ordinary primary schools. The studies in both types of schools shall be simplified and carefully selected to conform to the inherent nature of worker-peasant cadres.

3. Students of the above-mentioned schools shall be recommended on a rotation or on a selective basis under a general plan by government agencies, factories, and schools. Students eligible for the workers' and peasants' accelerated-course middle schools include: those who have participated in the revolution for more than 3 years or industrial workers who have been working for more than 3 years who have had a primary school education or its equivalent, and who are between the ages of 18 and 35. Workers and peasants who have participated in the revolution and who are 18 or older shall be eligible to enter the worker-peasant cadres' supplementary cultural schools. The organization which recommends students to the schools should thoroughly understand the cultural needs of the country and long-range needs of our national reconstruction. It should make its recommendations carefully.

4. The workers' and peasants' accelerated-course middle schools and the worker-peasant cadres' supplementary cultural schools shall be staffed by the very best teachers and employees available and shall have all necessary school facilities.

5. Workers and peasants shall be encouraged to attend by being credited with army or factory service for the time spent in these schools. Upon their entrance in school, those previously paid according to the allowance system shall be given political rights and material benefits in the same measure as prior to entrance. Those previously paid wages shall be given allowances corresponding with their past wage levels. Larger allowances shall be given to students with dependents, if larger allowances are genuinely needed for support. Teachers at these schools shall be paid at somewhat higher rates than teachers at local middle or primary schools.

6. The workers' and peasants' accelerated-course middle schools shall, for the time being, be operated under a general plan by the Ministry of Education, Central People's Government, and the education departments of the major administrative regions. The worker-peasant cadres' supplementary cultural schools shall be operated by high-level governmental agencies and the people's government at provincial, municipal, and Hsien levels.

7. The Ministry of Education, Central People's Government, shall draw up and promulgate detailed regulations for the establishment of the workers' and peasants' accelerated-course middle schools and the worker-peasant cadres' supplementary cultural schools in accordance with the above principles. It shall also train an adequate number of teachers and prepare the curriculums. School administration, curriculums, instruction materials, and teaching plans of these two types of school shall be in accord with regulations promulgated by the Ministry of Education, Central People's Government.

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